(Rev. 08-28-2000)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**Precedence:** ROUTINE **Date:** 04/05/2001

**To:** Counterterrorism **Attn:** [redacted] SSA [redacted]

All Field Offices

b6
b7C
b7E

**From:** Milwaukee
Squad 8/MRA
**Contact:** SA [redacted]

**Approved By:** [redacted]

**Drafted By:** [redacted] khm

**Case ID #:** 300A-MW-40665 (Pending)

**Title:** FRED WALDRON PHELPS, aka
Pastor Fred W. Phelps;
Westboro Baptist Church,
Topeka, Kansas;
Protest at Madison and Milwaukee, WI,
6/8-10/2001;

**Synopsis:** Phelps and members of Westboro Baptist Church, Topeka, Kansas, intend to return to Madison, Wisconsin, 6/8-10/2001, to burn Wisconsin state flag at State Capitol and to march in the Milwaukee PrideFest parade with anti-homosexual banners. Receiving offices requested to canvas logical sources and provide positive information to Milwaukee.

**Administrative:** Captioned case is being opened as a repository for intelligence gathered concerning possible violence at Westboro Baptist Church protests in Wisconsin, 6/8-10/2001.

**Details:** On 4/1-2/2001, captioned subject along with ten members of his Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) traveled to Madison, Wisconsin where they held protests outside a number of churches, the Madison Fire Department, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the State Capitol building and the Madison Board of Education. The protests were against the acceptance of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) population in Madison and the establishment of a Gay Students Advocate at the Madison Board of Education. Protesters were all members of Phelps' extended family, to include his wife, children and grandchildren.

The protests initially drew little attention, however by the end of the second day the WBC group was significantly

300A-MW-40665 b6 b7C

[redacted]

OEAd 04-11-01 cc: routed to C/A

outnumbered by vocal members of the LGBT community and their supporters. Aside from shouting and gesturing by anti-WBC demonstrators there were no incidents resulting from the protests.

On 4/4/2001, Phelps sent a facsimile message to Madison Mayor Sue Bauman in which he thanked her for providing police protection for his group. He then advised that he would also need "adequate police presence and protection" on 6/9/2001 when he plans to return to Madison to burn the Wisconsin state flag at a noon ceremony at the capitol flagpole. He advised that the burning of the flag would symbolize "the holocaust of Sodom, the insatiable burning of fag lust for perverted sex, and the everlasting burning of the fires of Hell."

In addition to the flag burning, the WBC group intends to picket the events of, and to march and sing Gospel hymns in, the PrideFest Parade in Milwaukee, starting at 8:00 p.m. on 6/8/2001. At these events they will carry banners with what might be considered strong anti-homosexual content.

A review of indices through ACS has determined that Phelps and the WBC have a long history of confrontational protest. During the recent presidential campaign, Phelps sent facsimile messages to Vice Presidential candidate Dick Cheney's [redacted] which resulted in a request for Secret Service protection. b6 b7C

Although the WBC, itself, has no known history of violence, the nature and type of protest in which they involve themselves often elicits a visceral response from the targets of their protest and violent confrontation cannot be ruled out. Milwaukee has therefore opened a case regarding the upcoming events in Wisconsin for intelligence purposes.

Receiving offices are requested to canvas logical sources concerning possible violent response to proposed WBC activities in Wisconsin and report positive information only to Milwaukee Division.

**Descriptive Data:**

<u>Main Subject</u>

| | |
|---|---|
| Name - | |
| Last: | PHELPS |
| First: | FRED |
| Middle: | WALDRON |
| Race: | W |
| Sex: | M |
| DOB: | 11/13/1929 |

**LEAD(s):**

**Set Lead 1:**

COUNTERTERRORISM

AT WASHINGTON, DC

Read and clear.

**Set Lead 2:**

ALL RECEIVING OFFICES

Canvas logical sources concerning possible violent response to proposed WBC activities in Wisconsin and report positive information only to Milwaukee Division.

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(Rev. 08-28-2000)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**Precedence:** ROUTINE **Date:** 04/23/2001

**To:** Milwaukee **Attn:** Squad 8/MRA
SA [redacted]

**From:** Detroit
C1
**Contact:** [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

**Approved By:** [redacted]

**Drafted By:** [redacted]

**Case ID #:** 300A-MW-40665 (Pending) - 2
[redacted] (Pending)

**Title:** FRED WALDRON PHELPS, aka
Pastor Fred W. Phelps;
Westboro Baptist Church,
Topeka, Kansas;
Protest at Madison and Milwaukee, Wi.
6/8-10/2001

**Synopsis:** Detroit is familiar with source, but there is no information of any planned violence.

**Details:** On 04/19/2001, a reliable Detroit informant advised that source is familiar with subject. Source stated that subject and his children and grandchildren travel around the country protesting against homosexuals. Subject was recently in Michigan, believed to have protested at the University of Michigan (UM). Source opined that subject was a "screwball". Source did not have any information that subject was violent or planned violent activities.

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